

DESTRUCTION OF WORKMEN'S
TOOLS BY FIRE.

In pursuit of our vocation, which is not to be the mere newsmonger of our class, not either the mere drawing tutor, not a mere lecturer on the arts of design, the sciences of construction, or of any other arts, sciences, or theories pertaining to our craft—yet, not neglecting any one of these, we have a still higher province, in which we are called upon to labour earnestly, yet humbly. We have to cultivate and to call into exercise the virtues of our class, and on the present occasion, one virtue in particular, for which we, who know the working men so well, know them to be, and to have been, conspicuous in all times—and that is, brotherly charity. Oh! if you wish to have an example of the active and self-denying, the single-minded exercise of brotherly charity, seek it among the working men. We have seen it carried to an excess, until the very virtue's self might be called a vice—we have seen privations endured and dangers braved, to work out their fidelity to the principle of succouring, and standing by one another, that were worthy of the records and eulogiums of a nation; but every day has its instances. The working man's charity, and still more the charity of the woman, to all whom their sphere includes, is a proverb, and of them it might be said as of the early Christians, "See how these people love one another."

True, it may be urged against us by the over-nice discriminator, what we have just said, that virtue's self becomes occasionally a vice in its exercise; that occasionally passion, or prejudice, or some human weakness of the less amiable quality, impels or guides the hand that were otherwise all beneficence—but what of that?—It may have been, that, as the poet puts it, "they loved not wisely, but too well;" but surely this is no reason for our damping up the current of benevolence; say rather, is it not that, like good engineers, we should turn ourselves to the duty of directing it into channels of bountiful and wisest purpose? Yes, that is the word—direct. We said at the commencement that a part of our vocation is to cultivate and to call into exercise—these words we now recall—it is only to direct. The virtue exists in almost superabundance; and we take upon ourselves with becoming diffidence the duty of the engineer or director.

One word before we proceed to our narrative. If anything were wanted to shew the importance of a medium of communication like *THE BUILDER*, such an incident as this would furnish it. We refer back to our first number with some satisfaction, wherein we gave expression to our foresight in this respect; indeed we shall be forgiven if, in our little vanity, we are prompted to refer to it, and to quote a whole paragraph of that advertisement.

"That this description of paper has been long a desideratum, is evinced by the history and character of the associations of years past. The struggles on the part of masters and men, and the attitude taken by the public towards both, required an interior of this nature to promote a good understanding, and to secure equity and justice to all. With such an auxiliary, what waste of time and funds had been avoided—what noble projects carried out—what petty strife suppressed—what distractions kept down. Our dignity would have been maintained, and our cause ennobled.

"But more than this. How many of the claims of humble merit have slept in this interval for the want of a friendly expositor, or a common vehicle of publicity? And how many valuable inventions have languished wanting encouragement, or died still-born in the obscurity of their birth? How many toilsome wanderings of the artisan in search of employment might have been avoided?—How many common benefits have been withheld?—How frequently the hands of brotherly charity unrecruited, and the worthy object frustrated of its aid? In the glint of work in one quarter and its scarcity in another, how promptly would

"THE BUILDER"

have adjusted the balance? Its columns at all times open to inquiries, and the office for reference, would have solved many difficulties and facilitated many purposes of good."

We have printed in *Italics* what applies to the case of this day. We have the "claims of humble merit" committed to our conscience keeping, and "inventions" laid before

us in confidence that shall not, as far as in us lies, lack encouragement. We have artisans resorting to us to aid them to employment, and happy are we to say, that we have had already some small success in the way of assisting them; but we long to attain to more; and now comes the case of "brotherly charity," in which we fondly hope to succeed, by directing the large and bountiful hand of the numerous and wealthy building class straight and promptly to the deserving objects of its brotherly solicitude.

SEVENTEEN CARPENTERS who worked in the shop of Mr. Cumming, in Brook-street, Bond-street, lost their tools in the destructive fire which consumed their master's premises about five weeks ago. We have inquired into the circumstances. We find the value of those tools estimated at £400, a serious and almost ruinous loss to these poor workmen—poor, we say, under their misfortune, for we would almost sworn to apply the word poor to any builder. To be poor in spirit or poor in means is not like to them; but to be poor from misfortune—such as these is the lot of the most manifold and independent.

These men, then, poor under the circumstances, have appealed to their little circle of friends, and respectable tradesmen have consented to be the recipients of the bounty of those who sympathize with them; but the sum they can hope to realize in this way is very small; we are glad to be able to enlarge the circle, and to put down our mite by way of starting; let our readers join us, and we have no fear of effecting a large amount of relief for our suffering fellow-craftsmen. If only one penny each were forwarded to us from the whole of our readers, it would be a very material benefit to them; but many will not stint themselves to this—let those who can club together collect what they can spare, and remit by post-office order, while those in isolated places, and few in number, can effect their object by the simple remittance of postage stamps. And we say again, that if only one penny stamp were forwarded, it would be a mark of generous feeling. We will take care to see to the just appropriation of the receipts, and to publish an account in our subsequent numbers.

For once, then, for the first time in the history of building art, let us exhibit the working, through a common medium, of our common brotherhood of feeling. Oh! it will be a matter of pride to us if we shall succeed in this our engineering; again, we say, art, science, intelligence, power, each in their place, but last—brotherly charity, must have precedence, and be esteemed and advocated before all.

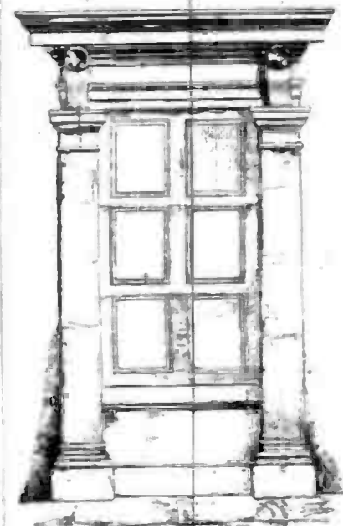
EXTENSIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT LIVERPOOL.—We have the fearful task to record the calamity of another great fire which, though happily unattended with loss of life, will yet be most serious in its effects. In its destruction of great part of the valuable and extensive works of Messrs. Fawcett, Preston, & Co., founders and engineers, in the delay that will be occasioned in refurnishing large portions of the marine engines and other works in hand immediately wanted, and in the probable throwing out of employment for a long time many of the engines room hands employed by that firm, occasionally in all from 500 to 700 men.

ANTIQUITIES.—They write from Munich on the 25th ult., that the King of Bavaria is now building a house in the park of his summer-palace at Aschaffenburg, near Wurtzburg, which will be the exact copy of the famous house of Castor and Pollux at Pompeii, which was cleared in 1839, under the direction of the distinguished German archaeologist, M. Zahn. The splendid mosaic work, the fresco painting, the altar, furniture, statuary, in short, all the curiosities contained in that ancient building, will be copied with the utmost accuracy in the new structure now in progress of erection at Aschaffenburg, so as to afford a correct idea of the domestic manners of the old Romans in our country, where nothing of the kind exists.—*Journal des Débats*.

METALLIC SHUTTERS.

This necessary protection of shops from depredation, and also from fire, materially depends upon the article we have taken to illustrate under this head. There are other varieties or plans, but this one of Mr. A. Smith's comes first before us; and, as we have full cognizance of its excellence, we are glad to have the opportunity of setting it forth. In

the elevation, it was our wish to have displayed a larger breadth of shutter, more in agreement with our spacious shop-windows, or that this should have resembled one of several compartments for which it is clearly applicable; but the draughtsman has not followed out our purpose. Nevertheless, it will be plain to the most ordinary mind, that the metallic shutter upon this plan admits of extension to several panels in width, as well as being framed upon two only, as represented here. Mr. Smith is



the inventor of other ingenious articles pertaining to building art, such as the swing hinges and pivots for doors, French casement-bolts, and an excellent flooring-cramp, for squeezing up the boards in laying floors, and avoiding the detrimental wedging and knocking, so commonly practiced in the country; and therefore his experience is a tolerably safe guide; but it wants little to convince us of the merit and of the practically useful nature of his plan for shutters. We submit a description, which will be made clear on further reference to the engraving.

These shutters consist of one or more flap or horizontal arrangements of panels.

On each side of the window is fixed a grooved (iron) stile, forming a guide or guides for the shutter to travel up and down. Behind each of these stiles is a continuous or endless screw (its length being same as the height of the window), which is supported while it revolves in metal bearings at its upper and lower ends; on the lower end of each of the screws a bevil wheel is securely keyed, and is driven by another bevil wheel working at right angles to it, the shaft upon which it is fastened being horizontal; this shaft, with its wheel at each end, connect, and cause the two screws to revolve at the same speed. The whole is set in motion by a small shaft, having on one end a wheel in gear with any of the others, while at the other end a square shoulder is formed, upon which is fitted a handle or winch, and is turned by a person in any convenient position.

To each of the upright screws on each side of the window is fitted a nut or female screw, which travels freely upon it, and is prevented from revolving by a stud in the nut, which works up and down in the groove of the stiles. To these nuts or female screws the shutter is firmly bolted, and by them propelled up and down.